



Visa/Entry Permit Guidelines for International Professional Football Player, 2019

Department of Immigration
Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs
Royal Government of Bhutan

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Title

1. This Guideline shall be called the Visa/Entry Permit Guidelines for International Professional Football Player, 2019, hereafter, referred to as the Guidelines.

Objective

2. The objective of this Guidelines is to supplement the Immigration Rules and Regulations in standardizing and streamlining the process for issuance of Visa/Entry Permit to international professional football player.

Effective Date

3. This Guidelines shall come into effect from 01 January 2020.

Definitions

(i) Adverse Record: Have not committed any offence.

(ii) Club: Bhutanese football Club registered with the Bhutan Football Federation participating in the premier league.

(iii) Department: The Department of Immigration.

(iv) Player: A non-Bhutanese professional football player who has represented his or her country in football or has played/is playing football for a national and/or international level professional football Club.

Legal Authority

4. This Guidelines is formulated in line with the Immigration Act of the Kingdom, and the Immigration Rules and Regulations.

Eligibility Criteria for the Club

5. A Club intending to hire a player must be:
 - (a) owned by a Bhutanese citizen;
 - (b) registered with the Bhutan Football Federation;
 - (c) participating in the premier league; and
 - (d) have no adverse record with the Department.

Eligibility Criteria for the Player

6. A player intending to play for a Club in the Kingdom must:
 - (a) be within the age limit of 18-40 years of age;
 - (b) have participated in national and/or international level competition or be a national of any top twenty FIFA world ranking country who has played/is playing football in a football club in that country. This must be established by documentary evidence;
 - (c) have no adverse record with the Department.

Applying for Visa/Entry Permit

7. A Club shall make an application for Visa/Entry Permit for a player to the Department with the following documents:
 - (a) application from the Bhutan Football Federation;
 - (b) recommendation letter from the Secretary General of Bhutan Olympic Committee;
 - (c) the Club's undertaking as prescribed under Annexure I of this Guidelines;
 - (d) a copy of the Contract Agreement signed between the Club and the player(s);
 - (e) Visa application form signed by the player;

- (f) copy of passport or voter identity card of the player as may be applicable. The passport shall be valid for at least six months from the intended day of departure from the Kingdom;
 - (g) notarized copy of the player's credentials; and
 - (h) schedule of the premier league.
8. The recommendation from the Bhutan Olympic Committee shall clearly mention the following details:
- (a) registration status of the Club;
 - (b) name of the player;
 - (c) passport/voter identity card number of the player;
 - (d) duration of the Visa/Entry Permit requested; and
9. The Department may ask for additional documents during assessment, if required.

Number of players

10. A Club may be permitted to engage a maximum of four players at any given point of time.

Assessment of Visa/Entry Permit application

11. Upon receipt of the complete documents, the assessing officer shall assess the application in line with relevant policies, laws, rules and regulations.
12. After assessing the application, the assessing officer shall submit the application with an assessment status to the approving authority.

Approving Authority

13. The competent authority for approving Visa/Entry Permit for a player shall be the head of the Department.

Issuance of Visa/Entry Permit

14. Upon the approval of the application, the Visa/Entry Permit shall be processed through the Immigration Information and Monitoring System after the payment of fees, if applicable.
15. The Visa/Entry Permit shall be issued for a maximum duration of thirty days.

Turn Around Time

16. The Club shall submit the Visa/Entry Permit application for a player to the Department at least fifteen days working days before the intended date of arrival of the player.
17. Approved Visa/Entry Permit shall be issued in three working days from the date of payment of the applicable fees or upon biometric enrolment.

Extension of Visa/Entry Permit

18. The approving authority may extend the Visa/Entry Permit of the player for up to maximum period of ninety days from the date of arrival into the Kingdom on a monthly renewal basis.
19. Extension fees as prescribed by the Immigration Rules and Regulations shall be levied, if applicable.

Exit requirement

20. A player shall be required to remain outside the Kingdom for at least ninety days following a stay of more than 30 days in the Kingdom.

Responsibility of the Club

21. The Club shall be held fully accountable for any issues concerning the player during the player's stay in the Kingdom.
22. The Club shall abide by the terms and conditions prescribed in the undertaking contained in Annexure I of the Guidelines. The signed undertaking must be submitted to the Department along with the Visa/Entry Permit application.

23. The Club shall present the player in person to the Department to execute the individual undertaking as prescribed under Annexure II of this Guidelines within seven working days of the arrival of the player in the Kingdom.

Responsibility of the player

24. The player shall abide by the Immigration Act, and the Immigration Rules and Regulations during his or her stay in the Kingdom. The player will be required to sign an individual undertaking with the Department as prescribed under Annexure I of the Guidelines.

25. The players must present themselves in person to the Department to execute the individual undertaking within seven working days of their arrival in the Kingdom.

Failure to execute the individual undertaking

26. Visa/Entry Permit shall be revoked if the player fails to execute the individual undertaking within seven working days of their arrival in the Kingdom.

Right of Rejection

27. The Department reserves the right to reject any Visa/Entry Permit for a player without assigning any reason(s).

Annexure I

Declaration of Compliance/Undertaking of the Club

I.....on behalf of

..... (Complete address of registered Bhutanese football Club),

declare that the following non-Bhutanese player(s) are currently engaged with the Club:

Sl. No.	Name	Nationality	Passport/Voter ID no.

Further, the Club would like to apply for Visa/Entry Permit for the following additional player(s):

Sl. No.	Name	Nationality	Passport/Voter ID no.

The Club agrees to abide by the following terms and conditions during the stay of the player(s) listed above in the Kingdom:

- 1) That I shall ensure the player(s) abide by all laws, rules and regulations of the Kingdom.
- 2) I shall ensure that the player(s) will be engaged solely to play football for the Club.
- 3) I shall ensure that the player(s) reside in the locality of the Club’s establishment or within the municipal area of the Dzongkhag in which the Club is registered.
- 4) I shall ensure that the player(s) exit the Kingdom before the expiry of the immigration permit.

- 5) I shall have no objection if the Department revokes the immigration permit of a player at any point of time.
- 6) I shall ensure that the player(s) respect local norms and customs, and not engage in any act against the *Tsa-Wa-Sum*.

The Club affirms that all information furnished to the Department is complete and correct. The Club understands that providing incomplete, false or misleading information will result in the rejection of the Club's request for Visa/Entry Permit. Furthermore, the Club understands that it will be liable for prosecution by a court of law and/or any penalties/fines under the Immigration Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan and any other laws, rules and regulations as may be applicable, for submission of false, fabricated or misleading information.



Name of the Club owner:

Name of the Club:

Registered address of Club:

Contact Number:

Witness

Name and signature:

CID no. (*Attach copy*):

Contact Number:

Endorsement of the Department of Immigration

Annexure II

Individual declaration of Compliance/Undertaking

I,.....holding Passport/Voter Identification No.....
a national of, hired by
..... (*Name of the Club*), agree to abide by the
following terms and conditions during my stay in the Kingdom:

- 1) I shall abide by all laws, rules and regulations of the Kingdom.
- 2) I shall only engage only in the activity for which my Visa/Entry Permit was granted.
- 3) I shall reside in the locality of the Club’s establishment/within the municipal area of the Dzongkhag in which the Club is registered.
- 4) I shall leave the Kingdom before the expiry of the immigration permit.
- 5) I shall carry a valid immigration permit at all times and produce it on demand by immigration officials.
- 7) I shall respect local norms and customs, and not engage in any act against the *Tsa-Wa-Sum*.
- 8) I shall have no objection if the Department revokes my immigration permit at any point of time.

<p>Legal Stamp & signature</p>
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Name:

Contact Number:

Witness

Name and signature:

CID no. (*Attach copy*):

Contact no:

Endorsement of the Department of Immigration